

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

The theme of our General Conference this year has been "Proclaim Liberation in the Land." All of our ministers, all of our laity, everyone who has been involved in this Conference has pressed home, again and again, that theme.

You know, I'm so thankful because God is here. I told you this morning I felt the Lord. As I've said, "I'm thankful that we have proclaimed liberation in the land, starting last Tuesday morning until this afternoon when we met in the park across the street from the White House, I was delighted. Not just Americans, but people from around the world who were there, too, to proclaim liberation in the land and to say we have a right to exist in every society around this world, and we won't sell our birthright, but we'll stand fast. I'm so thankful because everybody has been involved in proclaiming this week "Liberation in the Land." I haven't met anyone who hasn't. Everybody has been worshipping God and proclaiming that message. I'm so thankful when I think that the UFMCC is a part of proclaiming liberation in the land.

I'm thankful that if we read the Word of God we find that we who are gay are also included and it really tied in to what I wanted to say tonight. And I remembered as I was reading, I was thinking about one of the prophets that John Hose, the Vice Moderator of the Board of Elders, mentioned tonight, the prophet Isaiah. I don't know if you've ever read the Book of Isaiah, but if you haven't, I hope you will.

The prophet Isaiah was one of those people that God called to speak to his generation, but not just to his generation, but to our generation, also. As a Christian, I believe that these words are just as fresh today as they have ever been.

I don't look at the Word of God as being anything dead, that you can't use in the 20th century. I believe the Word of God is alive and well and living in our day and age, too. I read the Book of Isaiah, and I got to thinking about that prophet. Isaiah, who was one of the most eloquent of all the prophets in the written Word of the entire Scriptures. The prophet Isaiah stood up and talked not only about this day, but talked about the coming of Jesus Christ; the birth, the divinity, the ministry, the death and the second coming as well as the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. And yet that man didn't live to see Jesus, but he knew the truth of God and believed without hesitation what God said. When I look at the Scriptures, I think of how Isaiah speaks to us.

Something was brought home to me. Yesterday, when Dr. John Boswell was speaking to us at the Church, as I sat and listened to him, all at once something hit me like a ton of bricks. I think sometimes in MCC it's hard for us to proclaim liberation in the land, because we still haven't accepted our place in history and what God has done for us. I think as the Church of Jesus Christ we have to come to terms with our place in history.

And as Dr. Boswell spoke, I heard something that just curled my hair. And I remembered, eight years ago ... and you've all read my story. I'm not going to get into that ... I remember something happened to me. The Lord spoke to my heart, and as



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
CLIR DHC Grant 2026-2028

<https://archive.org/details/2174.15.41>

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

God gave me the assurance that God loved me, God told me to do one thing, and that was to go back and to start again rereading the Word of God ... see what the Word said.

And I remember I started rereading that Word, and it wasn't long before I started MCC, and it wasn't long before we had all kinds of coverage about MCC in the press ... and then on radio programs, television programs, talk shows, that something happened. The Lord showed me something, and I didn't have anything to back it up, but I knew that God had spoken to my heart, and God had told me one thing. God had given me an assurance that for 400 years, and I've said this so many, many times, there were gay people in the early Church. For 400 years ... God gave me that figure, and I didn't know why. And I remember I used to get on those talk shows and I'd say, "I defy anyone to tell me differently. There were gay people in the early Church of the Lord Jesus Christ for the first 400 years."

And I'd always end up with some minister or someone who thought they were just a little smarter than God, and they would say, "Well, give me these statistics, show me that, prove that to me." And I would say to them, "I can't show you. I don't have any historical facts, but I know what God told me. And God told me there were people in that early Church, and I don't care whether the statistics come out while I'm alive, or not. I know there were gay people there."

And yesterday when John spoke from the pulpit and all at once said, "for 400 to 450 years in the early Church, there were gay men and women. There are letters that provide the proof that there were homosexuals in the early Church," I knew then and there God gave me a witness of what the Lord had shown to me, and let me know then and there never to apologize to anybody when God gives you something to give to people.

It's time for us to proclaim Liberation in the Land, time for us to tell the world we belong. It's time for us to understand our history. In the Old Testament, there were people who had no part whatsoever in the temple worship. People who were told they could not belong. These were people who were not born into the Jewish faith. They were strangers or foreigners who came into the country, and they were not a part of Israel, and were told they could not worship. If they were individuals who had been converted to the Jewish religion, there was a court into which they could enter. But the Word of God said that they could not go into the temple itself. The same was true of another group of individuals, but for a different reason ... the barren. While they were not forbidden to enter the temple, they were constantly scrutinized by their neighbors, because in Jewish tradition you were to have children. John Boswell touched on that yesterday, and I sat and listened to him, again the Holy Spirit just checked me. And oh, if you were a woman and you were barren, it was horrible. It was terrible. If you were a man, and you didn't want to have children, or you couldn't have children, or you refused to marry, you were despised even more. There was a third group and they were called

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

eunuchs. And the eunuchs were usually thought of as individuals who were castrated and who usually were owned by the royal household or by some rich person. But again, they were not to enter the house of God. They were rejected.

And I believe with all of my heart that probably there were gays in those days and they were treated like the eunuchs. They were people who didn't bear children; and therefore, according to the religious leaders of that day, there was something wrong with them. But one day Isaiah stood up, and even though Jewish custom did not change at that time, that prophet stood up in the middle of Jerusalem and prophesied and said, (Isaiah 56:1-8):

- Thus saith the Lord. Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come and my righteousness to be revealed.*
2. *Bless are they that doeth this, and the children of them that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth their hand from doing any evil.*
 3. *Neither let the children of the stranger, that hath joined themselves to the Lord, speak, saying The Lord hath utterly separated me from my people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree.*
 4. *For this saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant:*
 5. *Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.*
 6. *Also the children of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve the Lord, and to love the name of the Lord, to be the Lord's servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;*
 7. *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.*
 8. *The Lord God which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to God, beside those that are gathered unto God.*

"I say to you, my gay brothers and sisters, you were included in God's plan." I say to you on God's authority that the Lord spoke through Isaiah to all sexual minorities when he used the word eunuch. God was not speaking to just castrated male, but to gay people as well. God provided us a name better than the names of sons and daughters.

Then the skeptic who would say to me, "Can you show me something in the New Testament to support your belief?" Well, I want you to turn to Matthew, the 19th Chapter. Jesus was having a conversation one day about adultery, and everyone was concerned and upset because Jesus mentioned that if you looked upon a woman to lust after her in your heart, you had committed adultery already. You didn't have to have any type of penetration other than with your mind. And then He went on to talk about women, who were put away for adultery by men, and Jesus said, "The men are adulterers, too." And that blew people's minds immediately because up to that point only a woman could commit adultery in Scripture. And then the disciples said to Him, "Now Lord, this is very, very strange. Maybe it's better than nobody ever gets married than to get married and have problems like this, because we all wander with our eyes

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

once in a while. We look around, and, Oh God, if we're going to be in that condition, it might be bad to be married." And Jesus quoted something very, very strange. (Matthew 19: 11-12):

11. *But he said unto them. All people cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given.*
12. *For there are some eunuchs, which were so born, from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men; and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. They that are able to receive it, let them receive it.*

I want to say to you Christians right now God has given this Church a revelation, and it's that God loves all people. And in Matthew, the 19th Chapter, the 12th verse where I've just read, Jesus was not talking about castration. Jesus was talking about a group of people, and that group of people were you and I who sit in this building right now. And He said that marriage in the traditional style was not for all people, but for those that it was not meant for, let them understand that they, too, could be a part of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You're getting awfully quiet out there and maybe you think I've lost my mind, but I want to tell you something. I'm telling you the truth tonight, as the Lord gave it to me. In this Fellowship, we have to proclaim liberation in the land. But to do that, we have to know who and what we are. We have to realize and know that God has called us, not a thousand other people, but you and me. I want to tell you this. God has called us to come out and to be a separate people in this day and this age. A peculiar people, a royal priesthood, and if we do that, we can really proclaim liberty throughout the land. We're called out. But to be called out, we have to be trained.

I listened to Reverend Sandmire's message this morning, and I thought about it, and I prayed about it, and I want to tell you something right now. We must be strong people. It's time for our ministers to preach the meat of the Word, and not just the milk. And I'm not going to attack our ministers because some of our people, every time our ministers start preaching the meat of the word, half the church gets upset and goes running off, because they get tore up and upset. But God expects this Church to stand on its own feet. I want to tell you right now. God just doesn't want any ineffective, mealy-mouth, sickly, tiddy-baby Christians. God wants strong people in this Fellowship who can stand on their own feet to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God wants people who can stand up and do battle with Satan. And hearing my sister talk about that group in Riverside, CA, and I don't know the cause of that fire, none of us do, but I want to tell you something. As Frank Kameny said today, the persecution might be on its way. I want to know that we can stand and we can stand tall. It may not get better. It may get worse. But I want to tell you this right now, that if tomorrow something happens to all of us, if we have to sign with our blood, our testimony, it'll be worth it all when we meet God someday on the other side. No one's going to keep us out of the kingdom. When MCC learns that it **IS** the church of God, then and only then will it be able really to proclaim Liberation in the Land.

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

Today I was sort of disappointed. I looked out at the group at the park and so many of you weren't there. I know the feelings of many our ministers and our laity about Christian Social Action. Some people think we really shouldn't have it in the church. But I'm going to tell you something. God is on the throne. If people are suffering, we have to bring relief, and we can't bring relief if we don't do the work God has called us to do. It'll be easy for us to become the fashionable group. You know, last Friday night, when I stood on tope of the Lincoln Memorial, and I looked down, and I saw over 1,000 people moving across the street, and up the steps, all at once the power of the Lord came upon me. And it reminded me of another time, and I've never shared this with anyone except eight really close friends of mine ...

I went on a bike run. I don't know if you've ever been on a bike run, or not. Jim Sandmire this morning mentioned a bike run. It was a lot of fun. None of the horrible things that I'd heard that goes on during bike runs went on. I enjoyed myself. I had a good time. It was in a part of California called Badger Flat in the High Sierra. Oh, it was so beautiful. And this was two years ago. I was going through a crisis point in my life. And I'd prayed and I had asked the Lord to help me, and I didn't know where to look for help. There are times ... sometimes you become so burdened that even your closest friends can't help you. I think I know what Job talks about in the Old Testament. Your friends can believe, but sometimes even they don't understand. And I was that way, just tore up inside, twisted, and my stomach was in knots. And I remember that night, I couldn't go to sleep. I walked up into the hills, finally came back down, sat around, listened to music for a while, and then decided to go to bed. Terry Luton, from the Los Angeles Church, was with me in the same tent. And I went into that tent, and I lay down, and I went to sleep. And all at once I had a very bad dream. I thought I was going through one of our famous California earthquakes. I woke up and found I had kicked the covers off and I was shivering from the night wind, and that's what evidently evoked the dream. I pulled the covers up, and a second time I had the same dream. And that time I really zipped into the bag, pulled the covers up, covered my head, and closed my eyes. All at one I was in the brightest of lights, and there was a personage standing in front of me. And through all my excitement the person to me and said,

*"Prophecy, O child of God.
The Lord God has anointed you.
Preach the truth.
Preach what you have been shown and prophecy."*

At that time I didn't tell Terry Luton anything at all about it. I went to another person who was at the campground and I shared with them and I said, "Something happened last night. I want to tell you about it, and I don't know what to do about it." And I shared with that person who's a witness and attending this Conference. And I went up in the woods and I prayed. And I want to tell you something. Since that moment, in some ways, I've been more bold than I've ever been, because I know what God said to me that moment. And I know how you look at people when they tell you stories like

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

that. I do. I think, "Oh God, somebody stopped by McDonald's last night, or they've been eating too many refried beans and, good Lord, you know, they really have a problem." That happens.

On Friday night, when I stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, I looked down. All at once I wept. And I thought, "Oh God, how I love you. I feel and then see that angel standing here now again." I started thinking about Washington, DC -- this big city which is the seat of power of the American government. And I thought back to almost six years ago when a brother, Paul Breton, wrote me in Los Angeles, CA and said "we have a little group of Christians meeting here. We call ourselves the Washington Community Church, and we want to be a part of MCC. Would you come and visit with us and take us in, and preach for us." And I said, "Sure, Paul." I came here. and I'll never forget. Paul and I started to the Episcopal church where I was to preach. We arrived there and discovered we had been locked out. Paul had announced he was going to perform a Holy Union for a couple in that church. The papers had mentioned it, and the Episcopal bishop in this city had said, "No such ceremony will take place." He told the pastor of that church, but he never called us. We would have moved the Holy Union to some other place had we known it would offend the bishop. But he didn't pay us the courtesy of letting us know. He called the pastor of that church and said, "I don't want them in there." The pastor said, "Well, I do." The bishop said, "I'm invoking Canon Law and taking that decision out of your hands. The doors will be locked on the church."

When we arrived at the little building, it was in 23-degree weather. I'll never forget it. There were 17 people in front of that little church, and everybody was freezing to death. We had more reporters than we had members there, but we moved right over to the side of the building. I preached. I only preached for ten minutes, but I thought my jaws would fall off, it was so cold. Paul and I consecrated Communion, and our people came up and knelt in the snow and took Communion. When they finished, the reporters said, "What are you going to do now?" I said, "We're going to the National Cathedral to hold a pray-in for the bishop of the Episcopal Church." I remember we got into our cars, and only eight people went with us out of the group of 17. Paul and I walked into that big cathedral and started walking down the aisle. All at once there was someone in front of me in a collar -- all smiles -- a young person, and he said, "Are you Troy Perry? I'm an Episcopal seminary student." I said, "That's great."

He said, "What are you here for?" "We're here to pray for your bishop." "For what?" he wanted to know. "Because he had us locked out of the church downtown," I replied. He said, "Well, would you like to have the high altar? I have the key. I'll open the gate for you." That young seminary student was Jack Isbell, who now is pastor of MCC, DC. He opened the gate to that high altar, and we walked up to it boldly -- the reporters falling all over each other. There were many tourists in the Cathedral. There had been a funeral a few minutes before we arrived. One of the founders of AA had passed away. His funeral had just taken place, but as is typical, because the National

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

Cathedral is a tourist attraction, there were hundreds of other people in the building. I knelt and started praying in my booming voice. Everybody stopped and many took out their rosaries and started praying with me as I was praying. And all at one, I said, "God I want you to cure this bishop right now of his homophobia, and help us to set homosexuals free right now." And I could hear rosaries dropping all over the floor as if the people had had heart attacks and felt God there. I'm tell you, I never emptied a building so fast in all my life.

All I'm trying to say, MCC, is this. That was six years ago. I'm afraid sometimes in MCC today, that we're so hung up about who we are and what we're doing here, that if that opportunity came today, if we were locked out, we would probably say, "Well, let's not do anything now, my goodness gracious, after all, we don't want anybody to get upset." I see us becoming very comfortable.

I'm delighted we're buying buildings. Praise God! Don Eastman the pastor of our church in Des Moines, IA, walked up to me. They are a young group. I think they started about two years ago. They are talking about buying a church. And I thank God for that. The LA Church ... I look on it with such pride. I want you to look at this ... This piece of property, if it had to be built today, we're told by engineers, would cost over \$1,000,000 to replace. You can't build buildings like that anymore. I'm delighted.

But if we're going to proclaim liberation in the land, then we have to realize that the torch that touched everyone of our hearts, in realizing that God loves us, can't be quenched by our decadence of trying to be too accepting of everything and everybody who wants to accept us everywhere in this whole wide world. I want to join the National Council of Churches .. if we don't have to compromise our stand for what we believe in.

In this General Conference we have affirmed the programs of this church. We have affirmed the need of institutional ministries, innovative ministries, ministries to all types of persons. We have the tools with which to work. We have the tools that have been given to us by God. But I say to you, my brothers and sisters, right now, if we lose the Spirit in this church, if all we have are a bunch of programs without the Holy Spirit, we might as well write "Ichabod" over the door and close the Fellowship down tomorrow. Somehow we have to reach out and make sure that the Holy Spirit is revitalized daily in our hearts and in our lives by putting ourselves on the line, by using good common sense, but never, ever, backing away, from evil and wrong.

I think it's honestly time for us to bow our heads and say "All right God. This is the 7th Conference, that magical number of seven ... completion ... We have finished the cycle. We have come to this part of our history. We're at that place now where you are calling us to be true to the vision that you have given us. That vision is to teach and to preach that you love all people right where they're at.

"God Has Called Us, God Has Spoken, The Message is Clear"

by Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry

Sisters and Brothers, if we get in our minds that we don't have to do the ministry that we've done in the past, that we've become so popular that there's no need for us anymore in the area where our people congregate in this world, we've lost the battle. All at once, we become the new oppressor. If our people make up their minds, that, "Well, bless God, I am what I am, just don't feel comfortable with these people; so therefore, we're going to have MCC of the Rich, MCC for the Poor will be down the street, MCC for Blacks can be over there, MCC for Women can be there." I want to tell you now, God will withdraw that Holy Power from us as a body, and we will become just another dead movement to a past revival.

God has called us. God has spoken. The message clear. God had appointed us not to be a divided body, but a whole body and it's our responsibility to be that. Amen.

